Genetically modified food

1746. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are genetically modified (GM) food and what are the negative effects of such food on human beings;

(b) whether it is a fact that food imported from USA containing GM star Link corn was distributed among the school children in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, the number of such incidences in the country during the last four years and the action taken against the organizations/individuals responsible for such imports; and

(d) in what way Government propose to prevent import of such food items into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Food derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is termed as GM food. The GM foods are tested for toxicity and allergencity for evaluating the human health safety.

(b) and (c) the Ministry has received no such reports. However, in the absence of any certification from the US regulatory agency to the effect that the Corn Soya Blend (CSB) imported by CARE & CRS through USAID, does not contain GM starlink corn, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) recently refused the proposal for import of CSB into the country.

(d) Prior approval of the GEAC is mandatory under the provisions of the Rules "Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989" for import of GM foods into the country. Violation of the above Rules is punishable under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

Revision of coastal regulation zone notification

1747. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to revise the Coastal